

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 7. (Canceled)

8. (New) A water jet apparatus for severing a biological structure with a jet of severing liquid comprising water, the water jet apparatus comprising

a storage container for the severing liquid,

a piston-cylinder unit comprising a cylinder formed in a cylinder casing and the cylinder having a wall and a bottom, a piston received in the cylinder casing for reciprocal motion of the piston in the cylinder with space remaining adjacent the bottom of the cylinder, the space functioning as a pressure space upon downstroke of the piston and as a suction space upon upstroke of the piston, and an annular membrane having an inside periphery attached to the cylinder wall at a position in an upper zone of the piston-cylinder unit and an outside periphery attached to the piston at a position in the upper zone of the piston-cylinder unit, the upper zone being defined by an annular space above the suction-pressure space, the membrane sealing interior of the piston-cylinder unit below the membrane from exposure to the ambient outside the piston-cylinder

unit and the membrane being dimensioned so as to allow reciprocation of the cylinder and the annular space being dimensioned so as to allow movement of the membrane therein as the piston reciprocates and the accommodate the membrane when the piston is at rest at end of a downstroke,

a manipulable operating device including the jet,

a suction line for conducting the severing liquid from the storage container to the suction-pressure space in the cylinder,

a pressure line for conducting the severing liquid from the suction-pressure space in the cylinder to the operating device, and

a coupling for attaching the eccentric drive to and detaching the eccentric drive from the piston,

the piston-cylinder unit together with the suction line, the pressure line and the operating device constituting a sub-assembly which is attachable to and detachable from the eccentric drive by means of the coupling, whereby one such sub-assembly may be replaced with another such sub-assembly.

9. (New) A water jet apparatus according to claim 8, wherein at least a lowermost portion of the annular space tapers inwardly in a downward direction toward the suction-pressure space, the taper being formed by a frustoconical portion of the cylinder wall.

10. (New) A water jet apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cylinder casing and the piston are constituted of plastic.

11. (New) A water jet apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a protruding sealing lip formed on the cylinder.

12. (New) A water jet apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising

a connecting device installed in the cylinder for connecting the pressure tube to the suction-pressure space,

a first opening through the cylinder casing,

the connecting device comprising a pressure sleeve press fit into the first opening through the cylinder casing for effecting communication of the pressure line with the suction-pressure space, a pressure tube concentrically received in the pressure sleeve and having external ribs spaced from an interior wall of the pressure sleeve by a distance corresponding to thickness of a wall of the pressure line, the wall of the pressure line at an end portion of the pressure line being gripped between the ribs of the pressure tube and the interior wall of the sleeve.

13. (New) A water jet apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising

a second opening through the cylinder casing, the second opening effecting communication of the suction line with the suction-pressure space, the first and second openings being radially oriented and diametrically opposed with respect to the cylinder whereby the connecting device is installable in the first opening by initial insertion thereof through the second opening.